

by the sirens' piercing sounds of war alert at 3:15 a.m. in Haifa, Israel's northern city, far away from Gaza or as proven rather close, and moving quickly with my mom, a ninety-two year old remarkably resilient Polish Holocaust survivor, to the best possible room in her apartment to await whatever might happen with our hearts pounding. Luckily the rocket was intercepted by an Iron Dome installation that the United States has gratefully financed.

No nation would have done less than Israel to fulfill a basic mandate of protecting one's population and all nations would have done more early on. Restrained by its legacy of Jewish and humanitarian values, ever conscious of the double standard applied to its conduct, Israel has exercised an admirable measure of caution to save lives even from the midst of a firing hostile territory controlled by Hamas, a recognized terrorist organization whose covenant unabashedly calls for Israel's destruction and criminally has used children, women and men as human shields; it shot 3500 rockets and also mortars from schools, hospitals, mosques, homes and U.N. facilities with the clear goal of indiscriminately killing and maiming Israelis.

When Hamas and the host of other Arab terrorist organizations will care more for their children than the death of its "enemy's" children, will there emerge new hope for the long-awaited to be transformed Middle East. When Israel's insistence on the sacredness of human life—all human life—will become the inheritance of the entire troubled region, replacing pagan human sacrifice, will the yearning of modern Israel and its biblical prophets for that essential though elusive Shalom, Salaam, Peace, reemerge as a potent force for the sake of all. How could Hamas, tragically and ironically elected into power by Gaza's misguided and long-suffering people, following Israel's 2005 withdrawal from Gaza at an enormous cost, squander its donated material resources away from the declared purpose of creating a supportive and necessary infrastructure toward establishing a terrorizing war machine with attack tunnels reaching into Israel with a goal of surprising Israel someday with mortal death blows? We are duty-bound to remember that Iran supplied Hamas with the smuggled weaponry and that Hamas is but Iran's proxy, alerted by Iran's stubborn search for a nuclear capability that will make all the difference. Sadly Qatar is not an innocent bystander, offering Hamas vast financial support.

I was deeply touched by Israel's courageous people coming together in a heart-warming display of national unity in the face of a mighty and unique challenge, while maintaining its enviable democratic impulse of cherished freedom to express a variety of views that could not take place in Gaza. Israel is weeping for its heroic defenders as well as the innocent victims on the other side held hostage by an ideology alien to what we in the West will never willingly give up.

Make no mistake. Israel represents the American democratic heritage with common purpose and interest, in a part of the world disdaining it and in which Radical Islam increasingly makes disastrous inroads as the shameful slaughter in Syria and Iraq continues while self-righteous and callous Europe with its growing anti-Semitism fueled by Islamist forces looks aside, expecting the Israelis to be like past Jews who could not defend themselves and paid such a high price for it. Let all

Americans say with one voice for the sake of all that is sacred and sane in a triumphant message that dare not be misunderstood, "Never Again!"

Rabbi Israel Zoberman is the spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach.

RECOGNIZING BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF GREATER FLINT FOR 70 YEARS OF SERVICE TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

HON. DANIEL T. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Flint as they celebrate 70 years of dedication and service to children and families in Genesee County. Since 1944, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Flint has provided a no-cost mentoring program to thousands of youth and families facing adversity.

To celebrate 70 years of service, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Flint will hold a Platinium Jubilee—Royal Gala. The anniversary celebration will honor the volunteers that have helped shape this institution throughout the past 70 years and highlight the future direction of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Flint as they provide life-changing relationships through mentorship. Chris Broussard, American sports analyst for ESPN will also join in the celebration as a celebrity guest.

For 70 years, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Flint has operated under the belief that inherent in every child is the ability to succeed and thrive in life. As the nation's largest donor and volunteer supported mentoring network, Big Brothers Big Sisters makes meaningful, one-to-one, monitored matches between adult volunteers ("Bigs") and children ("Littles"), ages 6 through 18, in communities across our great country. Their presence in our community is invaluable. Genesee County, as well as the entire State of Michigan, is better because of this agency.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Flint for 70 years of quality mentoring services, fulfilling their mission of creating relationships that change lives for the better, forever.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARY HEALY AND HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR COMMUNITY

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Ms. Mary Healy, a valued community leader who recently passed away. Ms. Healy was the director and chief executive officer of the Sacramento Zoo as well as a leading advocate for engaging the community in the preservation and understanding of animals in their natural habitat. As her family, colleagues and friends gather to honor and remember her wonderful life, I ask all my colleagues to join

me in saluting one of Sacramento's most respected figures.

Ms. Healy began her career in 1975 as a bird keeper at the Riverbanks Zoo and Garden in Columbia, South Carolina. Following a stint at the San Antonio Zoo and Walt Disney World's Discovery Island in Orlando, Ms. Healy came to Sacramento in 1999. Under Ms. Healy's leadership, the Sacramento Zoo saw growth in attendance and improvements to its physical setting. During her tenure, a full-scale veterinary hospital was built and new habitats were constructed and old structures renovated for a number of animals including giraffes and North American river otters. She focused on improving quality of life for the animals and advancing the experience for zoo guests.

Ms. Healy's passion and commitment resonated in her work and will not be forgotten by the Sacramento community. Her dedication to advocating for animals is unmatched and she took pride in educating our youth. She knew each animal's name and background and was often found teaching zoo guests about the animal's unique features or the exhibit's purpose at the zoo.

In addition to her work in Sacramento, Ms. Healy was a well-respected board member and former chair of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and served on its accreditation commission. She was president of the California Association of Zoos and Aquariums and was one of nine international council members of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums. Her vision to make Sacramento the best small zoo in America was highlighted in 2013, when she was recognized with a Women Who Mean Business Award by the Sacramento Business Journal.

Mr. Speaker, as Ms. Healy's husband, Steve, and her colleagues, family and friends gather to celebrate her wonderful contributions to our community, I am honored to pay tribute to her. I ask all my colleagues to pause and join me in paying respect to an extraordinary woman, Ms. Mary Healy.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH CARE PROTECTION ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 3522, the Employee Health Care Protection Act of 2014, a bill that sponsors say will permit a health insurance issuer that sold insurance coverage to employers who are mandated under the Affordable Care Act to provide insurance to their employees in 2013 to continue offering the same insurance in 2014.

I oppose H.R. 3522 for three reasons:

It does not obligate employers to provide insurance coverage for the essential health care services enumerated in the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Provisions of the ACA that prevent discrimination based on age, pre-existing conditions and gender are not part of the plans allowed under this bill.

Finally, the bill is opposed by the Administration and will not become law.